

GROUND WATER FORUM TELECONFERENCE

Thursday February 7, 2002

SPRING 2002 TSP MEETING

The spring 2002 meeting is scheduled for June 3-6 in Denver. Currently, the agenda is as follows:

- Monday, June 3: ground water to indoor air session (morning) and mining issues (afternoon)
- Tuesday, June 4: training on perchlorate to be broadcast over the Internet (morning) and a plenary welcome session as well as breakout sessions with ITRC action teams (afternoon)
- Wednesday, June 5: DOE sessions
- Thursday, June 6: DOE sessions

Depending on the types of presentations at the DOE schedule, the Ground Water Forum will also try to schedule business sessions or a field trip on Wednesday and Thursday. Travel days are Sunday and Friday.

Helen Dawson (Region 8) is coordinating the ground water to indoor air session with Ray Cody of the Engineering Forum. They plan to invite presenters from the State of Colorado and others involved in the ground water to indoor air issues. The Forum may invite P.C. Johnson of the Johnson and Ettinger model if there is additional time available on Monday afternoon. Howard Orlean offered to present a case study on the Georgetown facility, and Ken Lovelace suggested that the session address indoor air sampling issues.

FALL 2002 TSP MEETING

The Federal Facilities Forum has tentatively scheduled the fall 2002 meeting to be held in conjunction with a two-day meeting on UXO. The UXO meeting is scheduled for September 3-6, which is the week of Labor Day. Forum members would travel to Orlando on Tuesday, September 3 and would return on Friday, September 6. The Ground Water Forum would not attend the UXO meeting, but would schedule more time for business sessions, since the spring 2002 meeting will have limited time available for business.

UPDATE ON THE GROUND-WATER SAMPLING ISSUE PAPER

Rich Steimle confirmed that Region 10's review of the issue paper meets Headquarters' requirements for peer reviews. Doug Yeskis and Bernie Zavala will provide a copy of the final issue paper to EMS to format. The final formatted version will be uploaded to the TSP website in PDF format. The availability of the issue paper will be advertised in the NARPM newsletter. Doug will send an unformatted, "pre-publication" version of the newsletter, to the Ground Water Forum members.

SURVEY OF THE USE OF POST-CLOSURE GROUND-WATER MONITORING DATA

Ed Cayous explained that he is conducting a survey, with the help of DynCorps, to determine how scientists and RPMs at EPA are maintaining and analyzing data for post-closure ground-water monitoring under CERCLA. DynCorps will interview RPMs and scientists and prepare a summary report by the end of March. Ed said that the report will summarize how the Regions handle the data. He said that he is not yet sure what the final outcome of this survey will be, but indicated it will depend on the survey results. The outcome may be guidance or a fact sheet on recommended practices. He will consult the Ground Water Forum for their ideas on future direction once the report is finished.

Dave Wilson commented that some of the questions on the current interview form are too general to produce useful information or too burdensome for RPMs to respond to. Ed noted that the form can be modified if necessary. Dick Willey suggested that the survey incorporate the information that Kathy Yager (TIO) gathered during the pump and treat optimization study, since there may be overlap. Steve Mangion suggested consulting the long-term monitoring report for monitored natural attenuation for

information on monitoring requirements. Mary Tierney noted that Region 5 has a contractor collecting similar information; she will provide Ed with this information when he visits Region 5 on February 25.

If you would like to participate in the survey, please call Ed Cayous at (703)603-8807 or e-mail him at cayous.ed@epa.gov.

EVALUATION OF CAPTURE ZONES

Luanne Vanderpool indicated that a workgroup was formed during the fall 2001 meeting in Cambridge to assist Kathy Yager in developing a method for evaluating capture zones for pump and treat systems. The Ground Water Forum preferred an alternative approach to a proposal from GeoTrans on evaluating capture zones and offered to review the outline and scope of future proposals. The workgroup will meet via conference call next week to brainstorm ideas to take to a meeting at NRMRL-Ada on February 20. Luanne and Herb Levine (Region 9) will represent the workgroup at this meeting.

Rich Steimle mentioned that the Ground Water Forum co-chairs have agreed to write a letter to Regional management in support of the development of guidance on procedures to better delineate and define capture zones. He asked that the forum members tell him which branch chiefs are involved in monitoring issues. He further asked that the forum members brief their branch chiefs on the reasons why capture zones are important and what can be done to improve the evaluation of capture zones.

Several forum members responded that they would prefer to wait on briefing their management on this issue until they can offer a solution or a clear approach to doing capture zone analyses. The branch chiefs rely on the regional scientists to come up with the answers to such problems.

Kevin Willis pointed out that although there is no specific “bean” for capture zone analyses, Region 2's management makes sure that work at the site is being done correctly. Management believes that a RCRA requirement equivalent to construction completion is relevant to capture zones. Guy Tomassoni explained that management is probably referring to a corrective action environmental indicator that specifies the need to prove that a plume is not migrating above levels of concern. Superfund has the same indicator, and this can be extrapolated to capture zones.

Mary Tierney suggested dovetailing the capture zone recommendation with a recommendation for the development of a national format for submitting Superfund data. She added that management responds to “enforcement compliance,” and enforcement standards are typically provided in RODs. If electronic data is maintained consistently, then there are good software tools available to evaluate compliance.

Rich agreed to distribute a list of bullet items that explain the results of the Remedial Systems Evaluations (RSEs). Ken Lovelace pointed out that the OIG has asked Kathy Yager for a summary report and the RSEs for all 20 sites.

ATTENDEES

Regions:

Bill Brandon, Region 1
Dick Willey, Region 1
Ruth Izraeli, Region 2
Kevin Willis, Region 2
Kathy Davies, Region 3
Kay Wischkaemper, Region 4
Mary Tierney, Region 5
Luanne Vanderpool, Region 5

Dave Wilson, Region 5
Doug Yeskis, Region 5
Vince Malott, Region 6
Greg Lyssy, Region 6
Jeff Johnson, Region 7
Randy Breeden, Region 8
Kathy Baylor, Region 9
Curt Black, Region 10
René Fuentes, Region 10

Howard Orlean, Region 10
Bernie Zavala, Region 10

States:

Judy Canova, SC DHEC
Brian Lewis, CA DTSC
Jennifer Sutter, OR DEQ

Labs:

Dave Burden, NRMRL/Ada

Headquarters:

Norm Kulujian, HSTL/ORD, Region 3
Steve Mangion, HSTL/ORD, Region 1
Ed Cayous, OERR
Ken Lovelace, OERR
Guy Tomassoni, OERR
Rich Steimle, TIO

Contractors:

Diane Dopkin, EMS, Inc.